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Children's aid agency fails audit

'Alarming errors,' 'serious breaches' uncovered at office

By LINDSAY JONES
Metro Halifax

The Kings County children's aid office made "alarming errors" and "serious breaches" when investigating referrals and failed to meet provincial standards in place to protect children, a recent audit found.

The provincial audit, released by the Community Services Depart-

ment yesterday, noted poor record-keeping, inappropriate assessment and inadequate response times were rampant in the agency overseen by a volunteer board.

There was one example where a parent designated as "high-risk" and who required third-party access supervision resumed a caregiving role unsupervised without any formal consideration.

A reported case of a five-year-old found alone in front of a hospital also went uninvestigated. The decision not to investigate was based on past involvement with the family

action plan

» The province says a new risk-management process, staff training and an action plan to address the audit findings have been implemented.

and the fact that it happened a few weeks ago.

"Overall the auditors noted significant and pervasive concerns with respect to poor file organization; errors in judgment...and a general under-response to situations of risk to children," the audit

concluded.

Despite the findings, Community Services Minister Judy Streatch said no children were left in unsafe situations as a result of improper procedures and practices.

"This is very serious, and the risk of children being in harm's way, we take very seriously," Streatch said.

At the request of the agency's board of directors, the province has taken over the office — as other agencies in the province, including Halifax, have already done.

Leonard Doiron,

the province's former acting director of child welfare, has stepped in to manage the office and address the issues outlined in the audit.

Board of directors president Mark Mander said that while the volunteer board wasn't dealing with individual cases or staff training, it was ultimately accountable.

"This has to be rectified and fixed. At the heart of our focus is children and families," said Mander, who's also the Kentville police chief.

-lindsay.jones@metronews.ca

» celeb buzz p.22

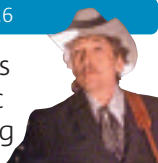
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Denise says she didn't request Sheen's sperm in e-mail



» local p.6

Dylan lets his music do talking



» homerenos p.13



Tips to get you through



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Union warns of walkout

Asbestos safety orders met by Monday or jail guards act: NSGEU

By PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Halifax

The union representing the province's corrections officers threatened job action yesterday if a series of Labour Department safety compliance orders aren't met by Monday.

The threats came as union and opposition leaders attacked the government over allegations of a coverup of asbestos at the Cape Breton Corrections Facility.

NSGEU officials claim the government has known about asbestos at the facility for 20 years, lied about knowing, and then didn't reveal the results of new asbestos tests until they were confronted. Justice Minister Cecil Clarke denies the claims.



Justice Minister Cecil Clarke said yesterday his department had followed correct procedures in disclosing information about asbestos to the union representing the province's corrections officers.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires employers to notify staff of such harmful substances immediately. "Immediate means that day. They should have told them as soon as they found out," said NDP MLA Gordie Gosse.

Earlier this month, the Department of Labour issued a compliance order including 14 safety measures

to be met by the Justice Department. The NSGEU said if the measures are not met, they may walk off the job and resort to actions such as picketing.

The orders were the outcome of a Labour Department review of workplace safety in the corrections system following the April escape of prisoner Jermaine Carvery. To

date, the Justice Department has complied with two of the orders, but Clarke has said it plans to act on all the compliance requirements.

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more coverage

» For more coverage of coverup allegations, see p. 3.

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local

An alleged drug den in Sydney is to remain boarded up for another 90 days, a court ruled yesterday. The Nova Scotia Supreme Court also ordered homeowner Stephen Bruce MacDonald to pay \$1,000 to cover the costs.

SOURCE: CBC.CA

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Union alleges asbestos coverup

Documents assert inspectors knew of issue 20 years ago

By **PAUL MCLEOD**
Metro Halifax

Union leaders say the government tried to cover up asbestos at the Cape Breton Correctional Centre, and it's only because of an anonymous whistle-blower that

staff ever found out.

The union representing the province's corrections officers yesterday made public documents alleging inspectors knew about the asbestos as far back as 20 years ago.

The NSGEU said management had told them the building was asbestos-free.

"This is nothing short of a coverup. There's no two ways about it," said the

NSGEU's Jim Grosse. "It's negligence, perhaps criminal negligence."

Justice Minister Cecil Clarke dismissed the old reports and said recent tests show the air quality in the facility is safe. He denied any suggestion of a coverup.

"That's just not the case," he said. "Clearly we did follow the protocols and we followed the actions that were necessary."

public report

» Justice Minister Cecil Clarke said the reports were publicly available and he was not aware of them because they took place long before he was in charge of the department.

But NSGEU officials say the government never told guards about the asbestos.

They say officials have known about the asbestos since tests came back on April 25, but that the only people told were management and maintenance workers.

The union says a maintenance worker leaked news of the asbestos to them and they demanded a meeting with management on May 15. Only then were they told of the asbestos.

Speaking with reporters outside the legislature, Clarke at first disputed the union's timeline.

"That's not the facts as they are known to the department," he said.

However, Clarke would not say whether management or the union called the May 15 meeting. Finally, he said he would find out and get back to reporters.

-paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Justice department facing probe

Guards refusing transfers not given shifts, NSGEU says

By **PAUL MCLEOD**
Metro Halifax

The Tory government is once again finding itself in the awkward position of having one of its departments investigating another over allegations by employees.

Yesterday the NSGEU announced it had launched a complaint against the Department of Justice on behalf of 40 part-time guards. The guards refused to transport inmates due to safety concerns and were not given any replacement shifts.

The union says it is unfair for the guards to not be paid because employers cannot withhold compensation from employees who refuse work for safety reasons, according to the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The Department of Labour



No governmental department is above the law, Labour Minister Mark Parent said yesterday.

will investigate the claims. It recently investigated the department of justice over safety concerns regarding transporting prisoners.

"We treat both government and non-government business equally with the force of law. We want occupational health

and safety issues to be given the same priority in business as in government," said Labour Minister Mark Parent.

He said he didn't know what the consequences could be to the department of justice if the employees are found to be right, but it would likely be

determined by the courts. He also couldn't put a timeline on when there'll be a ruling.

"I don't know. I try not to put pressure on (the investigators) to move too slowly or too quickly. It's really up to them," said Parent.

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Contact with kids 'ad hoc,' audit finds

By **LINDSAY JONES**
for Metro Halifax

The audit of Family and Children's Services of Kings County described examples of how provincial standards weren't followed.

The audit found an unlicensed social worker was employed to assess complaints, and highlighted how "critical" it is for an accredited social worker to perform that role.

Contact with children in care "appeared to be ad hoc rather than as a result of a clear case plan."

The audit also noted several examples when no home visits related to child protection files occurred for an extended period of time or

results

» So far, Kings County was the first to have its results released publicly. Results for Sackville, Cumberland County, Hants County and Digby are expected to be released by the end of June. The audit of Halifax's office has been underway since September 2006.

were done by phone.

In one case, parenting instruction was offered to a family when the substantiated concern was domestic violence.

The community services department is auditing every children's aid office in the province by the end of the year.

-lindsay.jones@metronews.ca

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The Municipal Association of Police Personnel will launch the Ride for Dad campaign in support of prostate cancer awareness tomorrow. One in seven Canadian men will be diagnosed with prostate during their lifetime, but less than 30 per cent of Canadian men get tested. METRO HALIFAX

ICU system flawed: Report

Review suggests overhaul of critical care in province

By ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Halifax

Critical care patients in the province may not be receiving "optimum care," according to a new report.

The New Democrat party yesterday distributed a report on intensive care service in Nova Scotia by international consulting agency Corpus Sanchez. The report was completed on April 22.

A review of the province's critical care systems or ICUs was conducted as a follow-up to the 384-page overall review of health care in

Nova Scotia, tabled in mid-January.

The most recent report says the critical care system in the province is not working.

Because of the varying number of patients and complexity of cases at different facilities there are "perceived inequalities" in ICUs, it says.

The review looks at categorizing ICUs into different levels based on the flow of patients and complexity of cases and re-jigging the physician payment plan for ICU coverage so it takes into account the level of the ICU.

« If that's what the consultants find — and these are the consultants chosen by the government — then there's cause for concern. »

New Democrat Leader
Darrell Dexter

New Democrat Leader Darrell Dexter said yesterday the report's findings are disconcerting.

"They point out that there aren't consistent protocols across the province and the recommendations themselves actually say that they are worried about the impact on patient care,"

he said.

"If that's what the consultants find — and these are the consultants chosen by the government — then there's cause for concern."

The report recommends a complete overhaul of inten-

sive care in Nova Scotia, saying it's not working and some doctors in the system need to change their practices.

Health Minister Chris d'Entremont said the report is still in draft form and will be handed over to district health authorities in the province for further consideration.

The report suggests there is no critical care strategy in the province but d'Entremont disagreed.

"We have a system that responds to the critical care needs of Nova Scotians," he said. He said he hopes to hear a response from district health authorities in the province about the review sometime this fall.

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crime

Police searching for assault suspect

ATTACK Halifax Regional Police are looking for a man who grabbed a woman's breasts in her apartment building lobby Tuesday night. At 6:09 p.m., a man in his early 20s followed a woman into a Tobin Street building, asked if she'd dropped some identification, then touched her breasts. The woman hit him with a box she was carrying, and he ran off.

METRO HALIFAX

business

Pictou might get new construction

AECON There's no confirmation, but it appears a major player in the Canadian construction market will set up shop in Pictou.

A sign, visible through a thin tarp at the entrance to the shipyard bears the logo of Aecon Fabco and reads "Fabrication and Module Yard, Pictou Facility." Aecon Fabco is based in Dartmouth. Officials in the town say they're aware of a deal at the shipyard, but they're not prepared to let the cat out of the bag just yet. NEW GLASGOW NEWS

Dangerous drug house found by Cape Breton police

Cops find dozens of needles, want to destroy home

Cape Breton Regional Police say they have found a party house so dangerous they want it demolished immediately.

"It is obvious it is being used as a drug house," said Const. Gary Fraser. "It's full of hypodermic needles."

The vacant mobile home sits between two well-kept properties. A children's play set in one backyard is only feet from the trailer.

Fraser, accompanied by the Cape Breton Post, uncovered 50-60 needles in a

space of only a few feet. Fraser also found a type of rubber band associated with drug use, as well as a spoon with a white powder on it.

"By the looks of this, they have been busy in here."

Fraser searched the structure after receiving a complaint Tuesday from a resident in the area. He said he will be contacting the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to have it torn down. Police will be searching it thoroughly first, he added.

"I would be worried about

someone involved in the demolition getting stuck by one of these needles."

Rick Fraser, CBRM manager of inspections and bylaws, said they have received complaints regarding this trailer.

He said the owner did not respond to a 30-day order to either secure or demolish the structure, so the CBRM will demolish the trailer and bill the owner.

It is scheduled to be demolished next month.

CAPE BRETON POST

« I would be worried about someone involved in the demolition getting stuck by one of these needles. »

Const. Gary Fraser

Cancer claims two respected locals

Halifax's longest serving mayor dies at age 91

Two prominent Nova Scotians died of cancer Tuesday.

Howard Dill, 73, was a Windsor farmer best known for growing record-winning pumpkins. In 1979, he grew

a 199-kilogram pumpkin that won him the first of four world titles. His pumpkins are often hollowed out and used in the annual Pumpkin Regatta on Lake Pesaquid, and he almost managed to get domestic queen Martha Stewart to row in the regatta in 2004.

Ron Wallace, 91, died on the

same day of cancer that he was diagnosed. He was admitted to hospital for pneumonia. Wallace was the city of Halifax's longest-serving mayor, holding the post between 1980 and 1991 after serving two terms as an MLA. He became a member of the Order of Canada in 2001.

METRO HALIFAX



Jonathan Howard laces up his sneakers at Province House yesterday. Howard, 24, is running across Canada to raise money for autism.

Cross-country trek for autism

Ontario man hopes to raise over \$2.5 million

By RACHEL BOOMER
Metro Halifax

Jonathan Howard has been dreaming about running across Canada since he was a child. Now he's doing it — and hoping to raise \$2.5 million for autism in the process.

Howard, 24, a Mississauga, Ont. native, began

working with autistic children in high school, running day camps and teaching swimming lessons.

"Some days it's really, really fun. Other days it's really challenging. You learn a lot of patience," Howard said yesterday, after he arrived in Halifax.

"It really opens up your

eyes to what's really important in life, and what we as a society should be focusing our resources on."

Autism is a neurological disorder that can cause communication problems and repetitive behaviour, starting in early childhood.

Howard began his run March 25 in St. John's, Nfld.

Since then, he's run 1,400 kilometres, some of it in snowstorms and heavy winds. He runs about 40 kilometres a day — most of a marathon — and expects to go through a pair of sneakers every two weeks.

He says money raised will stay with autism programs in the provinces it's raised in.

He plans to be in Ottawa for Canada Day, and to finish the 8,500 kilometre run in Victoria by Dec. 3.

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Lee Breen has been ticketed again for skateboarding on a Fredericton street after spending a night in jail last week for refusing to pay a previous fine. The 25-year-old was pulled over while skateboarding to work Saturday night. Breen says he doesn't plan to pay this ticket either. SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE

Bob Dylan keeps it simple on stage

Music legend entertains Halifax at Metro Centre

By DEAN LISK
Metro Halifax

It was only heard a few times reverberating through the Metro Centre last night, but even a passing music lover could have identified who was behind that harmonica.

It might have been be-

cause of the distinctive sound of the chords, but more likely from the vibrant applause that came after Bob Dylan began to blow into the instrument.

A major music figure for the last five centuries, the recent Pulitzer Prize recipient gave his audience of more than 7,000 a performance that sounded more blues club than arena venue.

He stepped on stage without uttering a word, taking



Dylan background

» Bob Dylan has released 32 studio albums over his long career.

» Most recently, he released the album *Modern Times*, which received a perfect 5-star review in *Rolling Stone* magazine.

his place in front of his keyboards and playing the opening notes of *Rainy Day Woman #12 & 35*.

Dylan — born Robert Allen Zimmerman — stood near his keyboards the entire

night. As he played, the soon to be 67-year-old (his birthday is Saturday) shuffled his feet and grooved along with the music.

Warm applause after each song was not enough to

break the aloofness he showed throughout the evening though.

He stood sideways to the audience for most of his two hour performance. It was not until he finished his first encore that Dylan finally addressed his fans.

"Thank you friends," he said, before the band ventured into the opening notes of his final song, *Like A Rolling Stone*.

It was a performance

nothing like that of another legend from the same generation who entertained Halifax earlier this month.

While Leonard Cohen shared stories during his five nights at the Rebecca Cohn, Dylan avoided the chit-chat.

Instead, the warble and muffle-voiced singer let his music to speak for him, as he and his five accompanists charted their way through his songbook.

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Web domain group to add 350 area jobs

New York City-based Register.com, a web services and domain registration company, is adding up to 350 new jobs in Nova Scotia within the next six years.

The company is expanding its Yarmouth location and adding an office in Halifax. The province, through Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI), is supporting the

growth with a payroll rebate to a maximum of just over \$4.9 million.

The Department of Economic Development is also investing up to \$1.09 million for recruitment and training.

Both are incremental investments tied to hiring targets.

Register.com's Yarmouth location is among the town's largest employers, with more than 250 full-time jobs.

"Over the past 10 years, our Yarmouth facility has been critical to the relationships we have built with our customers," said Larry Kutscher, CEO of Register.com. "We are excited to leverage the success we have built in Yarmouth as we further develop the support and expertise we offer our small-business customers."

METRO HALIFAX

Mexican Navy Tallship



Crewmembers work on the masts of the Mexican navy's sail training ship, Cuauhtemoc. Named for the last Aztec emperor, the Cuauhtemoc carries 200 crew. It will be in town until Sunday and you can tour the ship from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, tomorrow and Saturday.

Seniors overcharged for drugs, says NDP

Province promises savings to come in next year's rate

By ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Halifax

Seniors are being overcharged for the provincial pharmacare program, a standing committee of the legislature heard from critics yesterday at Province House.

"There's been a total of over \$27 million in savings in that program over the last seven years," said New Democrat

health critic Dave Wilson.

And at the same time the government is saving money on the program, they're charging seniors more, he said.

Wilson said last year the premium for the seniors' drug plan increased by \$24 while the government saved \$9 million.

The province's 2007 budget laid out \$180 million

for pharmacare program spending and in the end, only \$170 million was spent, he said.

Deputy health minister Cheryl Doiron told the hearing when the program comes in under budget, seniors will see a break in the following year's rate.

Health Minister Chris d'Entremont said seniors are paying no more than they have to for the program; they

pay 25 or 26 per cent of the cost of each prescription.

"That's what we promised them and

that's what we're sticking to," he said.

Wilson was concerned after yesterday's hearing about what happens to the surplus money from the program. The deputy minister stated that the money is being spent somewhere in the health department, so it's not being put back just into that program," he said.

-robyn.young@metronews.ca

Pair facing animal cruelty charges

Former SPCA cop among accused

A 63-year-old Cape Breton mother and her 33-year-old daughter will be back in a Port Hawkesbury provincial court in July to enter pleas on animal cruelty charges.

Alice Loretta MacIsaac, of Port Hawkesbury, a former SPCA special constable, and

her daughter Zonda Lee Marie MacIsaac, of nearby Port Hastings, are each facing four charges in connection with the Cedltic Pets Rescue run by the younger MacIsaac.

The charges come after a lengthy investigation following the seizure in February of dozens of cats and dogs who were found soaked in urine

and covered in their own feces.

The pair were not present for their first court appearance yesterday and they were represented by their lawyer Elizabeth Cuzack of Sydney.

Pleas are expected to be entered during the next court appearance set for July 28.

METRO HALIFAX

»news In Brief

» **CRANE** A Thorburn company that owned a crane that rolled out of control down a street in New Glasgow two years ago pleaded guilty to charges on May 19. A.W. Leil Holdings will be sentenced in July.

» **PLANES** Halifax International Airport Authority announced today that Delta Air Lines will resume its weekly service to Atlanta and will introduce new daily service to New York this summer.

METRO HALIFAX

canada



Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion's approval rating has sunk to its lowest level yet, with nine of 10 Canadians saying they disapprove or are not sure of his performance at the head of the party, according to the latest Torstar/Angus Reid opinion poll. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Deserter told to leave

U.S. soldier served in Iraq before fleeing to Canada

After a 22-month battle to earn a home in Toronto, a former American soldier was told yesterday he will become the first Iraq War resister to be deported from Canadian soil after his application to stay in the country was rejected.

A dejected Corey Glass, 25, stared blankly at the floor of a tiny room in a Toronto church as members of the War Resisters Support Campaign informed media and other American war resisters of his failed bid to remain in the country and the consequences he now faces.

"He's supposed to leave on his own by June 12," said the group's co-ordinator, Lee Zaslofsky, who came to Canada after fleeing enlistment in the American military during the Vietnam War. "After that, he's subject to deportation."

The rejection, Zaslofsky said, was based on a failed pre-removal risk assessment by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, which found that, if removed from the country, Glass would not be at immediate risk of death, torture, or cruel or unusual treatment or punishment.



U.S. soldier who fought in Iraq before deserting and coming to Canada, Corey Glass, 25, sits before speaking to the media in Toronto yesterday.

The potential consequence is unclear; past deserters who have returned to the U.S. have received punishments ranging from a dishonourable discharge to jail time in a military prison.

This first rejection could be a chilling sign of things to come for at least nine other war resisters who have requested a pre-removal risk assessment, Zaslofsky said, and could shut the door to other war resisters' attempts to find

a home in Canada.

An Indiana native, Glass's tenure with the military began in 2002 when he joined the National Guard to complete "humanitarian work" within the United States, he said. At that time, he had no idea he would end up fighting on foreign shores.

"When I joined the National Guard, they told me the only way I would be in combat was if there were troops occupying the United States," he

said. "I signed up to defend people and do humanitarian work filling sandbags if there was a hurricane. I should have been in New Orleans, not Iraq."

When he was deployed to Iraq in 2005, Glass said he tried to quit the military and was returned home on a leave later that same year. He then went AWOL for eight months before defecting to Toronto in August, 2006.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

death

Guards ignored pleas: Watchdog

INMATE Four veteran prison guards at an Ontario jail stood by as native inmate Martin Blackwind, 52, bled to death Oct. 3, 2006, from a self-inflicted wound and were docked only 10 to 20 days' pay, says a new report.

The investigation shows staff offered no assistance despite Blackwind's pleas for help. Paramedics could not revive him. Correction watchdog Howard Sapers concluded the wound likely would not have been fatal if it had been attended to.

The Union of Canadian Correctional Officers said nothing supports allegations of discrimination or that guards failed to do their job.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tougher label rules proposed

Consumers lost faith in system: PM

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is proposing tougher food labeling guidelines at a time of growing concern that unknown, potentially hazardous ingredients from abroad are finding their way into the products on Canada's store shelves.

Saying frustrated consumers have lost faith in the labeling system, the Conservative government is planning regulations to ensure that additives and ingredients produced in foreign countries are kept out of items carrying the "Product of Canada" sticker.

Current rules allow use of that label or "Made In Canada" even if a substantial portion of

new system

» Under the initiative, "all or virtually all" of the ingredients in "Product of Canada" items would have to be Canadian, with the only exception being spices or minor additives not available here.

» Other Canadian-produced foods would be labeled either "Made in Canada from domestic and imported ingredients" or "Made in Canada from imported ingredients."

the product — up to half — comes from foreign sources, Harper said.

"The truth is, foods marked 'Product of Canada' or 'Made in Canada' may not be very Canadian at all," he remarked during a press conference at a

berry farm in Ontario.

Today a bottle of apple juice labeled as made in Canada may have been made from apples grown in China, Harper said. And a bar of chocolate might be marked as a Canadian product but be made with cocoa beans from the Ivory Coast.

The Tories' proposals, which the government will submit to public consultation for the next month, are the first update in food labeling rules in two decades.

The move comes at a time of public concern about possibly hazardous additives or ingredients from China or other newly emerging trade giants showing up in products available globally.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **ABORTION** Canada's abortion rate fell by 3.2 per cent overall in 2005, Statistics Canada reported yesterday, with teen abortions down by nearly 6 per cent.

» **POLITICS** Prime Minister

Stephen Harper slammed yesterday Liberal leader Stéphane Dion's proposal for a carbon tax to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, calling it a "foolish" move at a time of soaring energy prices.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Police in Kazakhstan have arrested the editor of a publication called "Anti-corruption newsletter" on charges of bribing one of its officers. Police accuse the editor, Tokbergen Abiyev, of paying \$2,000 to obtain compromising information about judges.

REUTERS

UN chief to meet Myanmar leader

Focus on saving lives, not politics, says Ban Ki-moon

UN chief Ban Ki-moon began a mission yesterday for Myanmar's cyclone victims, saying "our focus now is on saving lives," as the military government gave approval for the first foreign helicopters to distribute aid.

The UN Secretary-General said relief workers had so far been able to reach only a quarter of those in need among an estimated 2.4 million people made destitute by the May 2 storm and sea surge that left nearly 134,000 dead or missing.

"We must do our utmost for the people of Myanmar," Ban



astrologer apologizes

» Astrologer Myint Lwin is upset because he failed to see Cyclone Nargis coming. "Many people died, so I'm very sorry," Myint Lwin said. "I'll try hard to research for 2009." Astrologists are highly regarded in Burmese culture.

said when he arrived in the Thai capital of Bangkok before travelling to Myanmar today. "Aid in Myanmar should not be politicized. Our focus now is on saving lives."

The United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are to convene a donors' pledging conference in Yangon on Sunday.

The government wants more than \$11 billion in aid, but international donors need access to verify the needs, ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan told Reuters

in an interview.

"Accessibility is important to guarantee confidence and verify the damage and needs, otherwise confidence during pledging will be affected," Surin said on a visit to Yangon.

Ban said he would meet the junta's Senior General Than Shwe tomorrow.

Than Shwe, who took two weeks after the disaster to meet victims and see the destruction for himself, had declined to take Ban's phone calls earlier in the relief effort.

REUTERS

Deal struck to end Lebanese conflict

Rival Lebanese leaders signed a deal yesterday to end 18 months of political conflict that had threatened to push the country to a new civil war.

The agreement, reached after six days of Arab-mediated talks, also paved the way for the election of a new president.

Parliament will convene on Sunday to elect army chief General Michel Suleiman as head of state, aides to Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri told Reuters in Qatar, where the feuding sides signed the accord.

The agreement between



STEVE GRIS/REUTERS

Lebanese people release white balloons yesterday in Martyr's Square in Central Beirut to celebrate the agreement.

the U.S.-backed ruling coalition and the Hezbollah-led opposition resolved a dispute over a law for holding 2009

parliamentary elections and met the opposition's longstanding demand for veto power in cabinet.

REUTERS

»news In Brief



» **SUPERNOVA** Excited astronomers said yesterday they had, for the first time, caught a supernova on camera just as it was exploding, and they may now learn how to spot others. By luck, they spotted a burst of X-rays while looking at another part of a

distant galaxy, and managed to turn a variety of telescopes in the right direction just in time.

» **SWEDEN** Swedish police detained two men on suspicion of planning to sabotage a nuclear power

station yesterday after one of them was discovered entering it with small amounts of a highly explosive material. Police said both were contract workers and one of them was previously known to police.

REUTERS

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Israel, Syria in peace talks

Turkey mediates between nations at war for 60 years

Israel and Syria said yesterday they had begun indirect peace talks mediated by Turkey, the first confirmation of negotiations between the long-time enemies in eight years.

In co-ordinated statements, Israel and Syria said they had begun an open dialogue with the aim of a comprehensive peace. Turkey said delegations

of both countries, officially at war since Israel's creation 60 years ago, were already in Istanbul.

The United States said it did "not object," but repeated its criticism of Syria's "support of terrorism" — a reminder for many analysts that U.S. hostility to Damascus, and to its Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah allies, makes a

Syria-Israel deal unlikely before President George W. Bush steps down in January.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud

Olmert said the process would be long, complex and could end in "difficult concessions" for Israel — an apparent reference to his willingness to hand back the Golan Heights.

"It's always better to talk than shoot," Olmert said,

without spelling out what concessions he was thinking of.

Just eight months ago, Israeli jets bombed what U.S. officials have called a North Korean-designed nuclear facility in Syria.

An Israeli statement, echoed by one from Syria, said the two sides would now "conduct dialogue in a serious and continuous manner with the aim of reaching a comprehensive peace."

REUTERS

« It's always better to talk than shoot. »

Israeli Prime Minister

Ehud Olmert

» news In Brief

» **CUBA** U.S. President George W. Bush announced yesterday that Americans are now allowed to send cellphones to their families in Cuba, in what he portrayed as a test of the Communist country's economic reforms brought in by Cuban President Raul Castro.

» **KENYA** A mob has burned to death at least 11 people accused of witchcraft in west Kenya, police said yesterday. Traditional African beliefs, Christianity and Islam co-exist peacefully in Kenya, but there is widespread suspicion of sorcery, especially in west Kenya.

REUTERS

Obama takes aim at McCain

Barack Obama sounded like the probable Democratic presidential nominee on a visit to the November election battleground of Florida yesterday, praising rival Hillary Clinton and focusing his criticism on Republican foe John McCain.



Obama

Obama used the visit to praise Clinton, saying she "has run an outstanding campaign and she deserves our admiration and our respect," he said.

The Illinois senator also took several shots at McCain, criticizing the influence of lobbyists in his campaign and calling him a new version of President Bush.

Ten years ago, he said, McCain introduced a bill to ban candidates from paying registered lobbyists.

"John McCain then would be pretty disappointed with John McCain now, because he hired some of the biggest

lobbyists in Washington to run his campaign," Obama said.

An MSNBC count gives him 1,961 total delegates to Clinton's 1,783, leaving him 65 short of the 2,026 needed to win the nomination at the Democratic Party's August convention.

A Reuters/Zogby poll showed Obama opening an 8-point national lead on McCain as the two geared up for their likely battle for the White House.

REUTERS

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business

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U.S.\$	98.41¢		

Starbucks Coffee Canada Inc. said it has struck a deal to buy about 40 stores and other assets from two licensees — Coffee Vision Inc. and Coffee Vision Atlantic Inc. — in Quebec and Atlantic Canada. **REUTERS**

Inflation rise a sign: Analysts

Sticker shock at the pumps, and to some extent the bakery aisles, caused consumer prices to accelerate for the first time in five months in April, and experts are already predicting it could get worse.

Economists warn that the inflation report from Statistics Canada yesterday is an early sign that consumers are starting to be hit by soaring energy costs and rising pressure on food prices despite the cushioning effect of a higher dollar.

The consumer price index increased 1.7 per cent between April 2007 and April 2008, surpassing the 1.4 per cent consensus forecast.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

hurting the wallet

» Gas prices rose 11.6 per cent year over year. Prices for bakery products jumped 10.4 per cent, the "steepest rise" since late 1981.

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THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Housing sales continue rise:

The sales of existing housing in Nova Scotia in April continue close to the record-breaking pace of 2007, according to statistics published by the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors (NSAR). This is also contrary to the national trend for the month. In April 2008, the province saw a rise in number of properties sold and a three per cent increase in the value of all sales process through the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) as compared to April 2007. This is balanced by a slightly larger increase in active listings. Nationally, total MLS sales declined 3.9 per cent compared to total sales reported in April 2007.

Vacation properties announced:

Cape Breton Resorts has announced its Cape Breton Lifestyles project — a new vacation property development at two Cape Breton Island locations and the sale of building lots and existing cottages at a third site. The vacation homes will be located in Ingonish, Baddeck and Dundee. Construction in Ingonish at the Cape Breton Resorts Glenaghorm site has been underway for some time, with the second phase being introduced this week. The final component of the Cape Breton Lifestyles project is slated for construction on a 10-acre site bordering the Bell Bay Golf Club property.

Shareholders file lawsuit:

A group of common shareholders of Advanced Glazings Technologies has filed a lawsuit against two investment funds and a number of former and current directors. A statement released by Lawyer Jim Gogan on May 20 said the 35 shareholders feel the investment funds and directors took control of the Cape Breton company through the board of directors and acted recklessly in a way that was against the interests of the common shareholders.

Melford terminal on target for start — Spokesperson:

If regulatory approvals are received as anticipated, construction on a \$300-million container terminal on the mainland side of the Strait of Canso is on target to begin this summer. While proponents behind the Melford International Terminal development aren't taking a positive outcome of the environmental assessment process for granted, they're optimistically moving forward, a project spokesperson said. Proponents for that project announced their intentions last spring to build the container terminal, rail intermodal facility and logistics park at the provincially owned 14,500-acre Melford industrial land reserve in Guysborough County.

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sports



Veteran forward Jeremy Roenick, left, agreed to terms on a one-year contract with the San Jose Sharks yesterday. Roenick had 14 goals and 33 points in 69 games for the Sharks last season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ski jumpers sue for 2010 spot

Female athletes claim unfair discrimination

A coalition of international women ski jumpers filed suit in Canada yesterday challenging their exclusion from the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The lawsuit against the Vancouver Organizing Committee argues that the women from Europe and North America have been discriminated against because the Games allow only men's ski jumping.

"The failure to include women's ski jumping events in the Games violates every woman's right to equal benefit under the law," according to the lawsuit filed in British Columbia Supreme

Court in Vancouver.

Nearly all Olympic sports have both a men's and women's event, but the International Olympic Committee always has exempted ski jumping to let it be a male-only competition.

IOC President Jacques Rogge said in February that only 80 women were competing in the sport, far fewer than for other Olympic sports, and including it in the 2010 Games would dilute the value of medals won in other events.

The women's supporters argue they meet all the technical requirements to qualify, and accuse opponents of being sexist and unwilling to force male ski jumpers to share potential sponsor-

ship money athletes get from being part of the Games.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee said it could not comment on the lawsuit, but noted that only the IOC had the authority to decide what events were held at the Winter and Summer Games.

"We have no vote in this," committee Chief Executive John Furlong said.

Furlong said the committee did tell the IOC that if it decided to include the women's event the local organizers would make sure they were ready to handle it.

But the Vancouver committee officials also warned that the competition

schedule — which has to balance the needs of both athletes and international broadcasters — is scheduled to be finalized by August, and it would be very difficult to change after that.

The lawsuit said the Vancouver Organizing Committee can be sued over the issue because it receives substantial Canadian government funding and is responsible for carrying out government policies to make sure the Games are successful.

The women ski jumpers had filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission, but it was settled in January under an agreement with the federal government that called for the dispute to be mediated.

REUTERS

hockey

Bulls charge to overtime victory

PLAYOFFS Keaton Turkiewicz scored 8:55 into overtime to give the Belleville Bulls a 4-3 victory over the host Kitchener Rangers last night at the Memorial Cup.

The two teams will face off again tomorrow night in the semifinal game, with the winner facing the Spokane Chiefs in Sunday's final.

MLB

Pedro leaves Mets to be with ill father

FAMILY New York Mets pitcher Pedro Martinez has left the team to be with his ailing father in the Dominican Republic.

Martinez has been working to recover from a strained left hamstring and there were indications that he could rejoin the Mets by early June, but his family issues could delay his return.

NBA

Raptors duo go under the knife

INJURIES Toronto Raptors guard Anthony Parker and forward Andrea Bargnani each underwent surgery yesterday.

Parker's surgery was to repair a tendon on the middle finger of his right hand, while Bargnani had a procedure which removed his adenoids and repaired a deviated septum. Both players are expected to fine in time for training camp.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Man U delivers more hardware

Premier League winners claim Champions title

**MANCHESTER UNITED 1
CHELSEA 1 (6-5)**

Manchester United were crowned kings of Europe for the third time yesterday when they beat Chelsea 6-5 on penalties after a breathless all-English Champions League final had finished 1-1 after extra time.

United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar, appearing in his third final 13 years after his first with Ajax Amsterdam, saved the decisive kick from substitute Nicolas Anelka.

The victory completed a famous double for the Old Trafford team who edged Chelsea

for the Premier League title 10 days ago.

It was an emotional triumph for United, coming 50 years after the Munich air disaster, and there was a huge cheer for one of the survivors, Bobby Charlton, when he joined the team at the presentation of the trophy he lifted in 1968 before Alex Ferguson led the team to a second success in 1999.

"We've had fate on our side all season and I felt that fate played its hand with John Terry slipping," Ferguson said of the Chelsea captain's key penalty miss.

It was a heartbreaking night for Terry, who had the chance to win it but sent what would have been the winning penalty against the outside of the post.

REUTERS



MICHAEL STEELE/GETTY IMAGES

Rio Ferdinand and Ryan Giggs, second from right, of Manchester United lift the trophy following their team's 6-5 victory over Premiership rivals Chelsea in the penalty shootout during the UEFA Champions League final yesterday in Moscow. It is the team's third European Cup title.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

STANLEY CUP FINAL PITTSBURGH VS. DETROIT

Game 1 — Saturday
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 9
Game 2 — Monday
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 9
Game 3 — Wednesday, May 28
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 9
Game 4 — Saturday, May 31
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 9
*Game 5 — Monday, June 2
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 9
*Game 6 — Wednesday, June 4
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 9
*Game 7 — Saturday, June 7
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 9
(* — if necessary)

NBA

CONFERENCE FINALS EASTERN CONFERENCE BOSTON VS. DETROIT

Game 2 — Tonight
Detroit at Boston, 9:30
Game 3 — Saturday

Boston at Detroit, 9:30

Game 4 — Monday

Boston at Detroit, 9:30

*Game 5 — Wednesday, May 28

Detroit at Boston, 9:30

*Game 6 — Friday, May 30

Boston at Detroit, 9:30

*Game 7 — Sunday, June 1

Detroit at Boston, 9:30

(Boston lead series 1-0)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

L.A. LAKERS VS. SAN ANTONIO

Game 1 — Last night

L.A. Lakers 89 San Antonio 85

Game 2 — Tomorrow

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10

Game 3 — Sunday

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 9:30

Game 4 — Tuesday, May 27

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 10

*Game 5 — Thursday, May 29

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10

*Game 6 — Saturday, May 31

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 9:30

*Game 7 — Monday, June 2

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10

(L.A. Lakers lead series 1-0)

(* — if necessary)

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

American League

Oakland 9 Tampa Bay 1

Detroit 9 Seattle 4

Boston 6 Kansas City 3

N.Y. Yankees 8 Baltimore 0

L.A. Angels 4 Toronto 3

Texas 10 Minnesota 1

Chicago W Sox 7 Cleveland 2

National League

San Francisco 3 Colorado 2 (10 ins)

Milwaukee 4 Pittsburgh 1

Atlanta 11 N.Y. Mets 4

Florida 3 Arizona 1

Philadelphia 12 Washington 2

Houston 5 Chicago Cubs 3

St. Louis at San Diego

Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers

Today's Games

American League

Seattle at Detroit, 2:05

Texas at Minnesota, 2:10

Kansas City at Boston, 2:35

Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, 8:05

L.A. Angels at Toronto, 8:07

Cleveland at Chicago W Sox, 9:11

National League

Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 8:05

N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 8:10

Arizona at Florida, 8:10

Philadelphia at Houston, 9:05

Cincinnati at San Diego, 11:05

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Last night

Belleville 4 Kitchener 3 (OT)

SEMIFINAL

Tomorrow

Kitchener vs. Belleville, 8

FINAL

Sunday

Spokane vs. semifinal winner, 8

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Halifax Mooseheads forward Bryce Swan, left, said yesterday contract talks with the Anaheim Ducks "are progressing quite nicely." Swan, a second-round pick in 2006, re-enters this year's NHL draft if he isn't signed by June 1.

METRO HALIFAX

»sports

In Brief



» **HOCKEY** Cape Breton Screaming Eagles defenceman Beau Prokopetz has committed to play for the Acadia Axemen next season, pending acceptance into the Wolfville school. The Axemen have also landed former Eagles forward Jonathan Laberge, who had 29 goals and 44 assists for 73 points in 76 games, and Kootenay Ice defenceman Paul Kurceba.

» **BASKETBALL** The St. Francis Xavier X-Women have named Matt Skinn head coach of their women's basketball team. Skinn has been an assistant coach with the Calgary Dinos men's team for the past four seasons. He was an academic all-Canadian during his five-year playing career with the Cape Breton Capers, and said in a press release he hopes to "bring a new stability and energy to the program" to make the X a "perennial contender."

» **ATHLETICS** Jenna Martin of Caledonia won bronze in the women's 400 metres at the NCAA Division 1 South Eastern Conference track and field championships in Auburn, Ala., on the weekend. The University of Kentucky sophomore finished with a season-best time of 52.77 seconds.

METRO HALIFAX

Smith revs up for title hunt

'Oval Outlaw' bidding for fifth championship

By MATTHEW WUEST
Metro Halifax

The Oval Outlaw is keeping it legal this year — and hopes it lands him a Carquest Maritime Pro Stock Tour title.

Timberlea's Wayne Smith highlights the field heading into the Lucas Oil 100 on Saturday at Scotia Speedworld as another Carquest season roars out of the gates.

Smith, dubbed the 'Oval Outlaw', won five races last year — typically, enough to win it all — but eventually lost the Carquest title on a controversial disqualification from the Pioneer Coal 100 for having an illegal carburetor part.

The three-time MASCAR champ and 2001 Carquest winner enters this season with a fifth crown in his crosshairs.

"That would be nice, to come back and win the championship after what happened last year," said Smith, who initially planned legal action but later accepted his disqualification.

"But me and the tour came to an



JOAN ROUE FOR METRO HALIFAX

Timberlea's Wayne Smith will be looking for the checkered flag at the Lucas Oil 100 this Saturday at Scotia Speedworld.

agreement, both sides are happy, and we're ready to go again this season."

Shawn Tucker of Fredericton ended up winning last year's title with 1,955 points. Enfield's Shawn Turple was a close second with 1,938 points, and Smith was third at 1,934.

All three are back for this year's 11-race schedule, along with Dartmouth's Mike MacKenzie, rookie Craig Slaunwhite of White's Lake, and Pictou veteran Rollie MacDonald, who edged out Smith for the title in 2005.

Halifax's John Flemming, who is racing in the United States, is the only past Carquest winner not on the tour this year.

"It's gonna be a hard season," Smith said after running through the list of his toughest competitors. "We've got about 10 cars on the tour that are capable of winning any given night."

Smith has a new Chevrolet Monte Carlo this year and said he and his pit crew are still tweaking the car.

The 43-year-old said he's "becoming

an antique" on the tour, but is looking forward to getting started on Saturday.

"We're gonna go and try to win some races, there's no doubt about that," Smith said. "That's our plan. Hopefully we'll win the first one. That's what we're aiming for."

Racing begins at 6 p.m. The Lucas Oil 100 is the first of three Carquest events at Scotia Speedworld. The Forbes 150 is July 5 and the Parts For Trucks 200 is Sept. 6.

—matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

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Eagles screaming mad

Coach breached contract: President

The Cape Breton Screaming Eagles say Pascal Vincent breached his contract when he signed on yesterday as head coach and general manager of the new Verdun Juniors.

Screaming Eagles president Paul MacDonald said his organization did not grant Vincent a release from his current two-year contract, which wasn't set to expire until 2009.

"Right now, it's in the hands of the lawyers, and everything

is on the table at this point," MacDonald said, adding he's "not at liberty to say" what compensation is being requested.

The 36-year-old Vincent spent the past nine years as head coach of the Screaming Eagles and the past seven as GM. He guided the team to a 40-24-3-3 record this season and won the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's coach-of-the-year award. He was also named general manager of



Vincent

the year in 2007.

The Laval, Que., native said he is eager to build a winning team in Verdun, and just as eager to move closer to home.

"I'm thrilled to be returning to Montreal for my family, my parents and my lifelong friends," he said in a press release.

MacDonald said he hopes to have a replacement or replacements named by the draft, June 4 to 7 in Sydney, and that assistant coach Mario Durocher is an obvious candidate.

—METRO HALIFAX/WITH FILES
FROM THE CAPE BRETON POST

Local paddlers close in on Games

Six Nova Scotian paddlers could earn spots at the Summer Olympics when Canada's sprint canoe-kayak team competes at a pair of World Cup events next month.

Twenty-seven paddlers were named to the Canadian team yesterday for regattas in Szeged, Hungary, from June 5

to 7, and in Duisburg, Germany, from June 13 to 15.

Dartmouth's Andrew Russell, in men's canoe, and Waverley's Karen Furneaux, in women's kayak, lead the pack after strong results at last weekend's Pan Am championships. Also competing in the hope of securing Olympic

spots will be men's kayakers Connor Taras of Waverley and Lyall Hatton of Bedford and women's kayakers Genevieve Orton of Dartmouth and Jillian D'Alessio of Middle Sackville.

Nova Scotia sent five paddlers to the 2004 Olympics.

—MATTHEW WUEST/METRO HALIFAX

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Revelations of renovations

Advance planning can build upon perfect home addition

By SYLVIA PUTZ
for Metro Halifax

Our family is in the enviable position of being on the almost-finished side of a large addition and interior renovation. And overall, the reno was an incredible adventure — one we had dreamed about for years. We ended up with a gorgeous house that fits us like a glove. What could be better?

Well, getting there was not always smooth. The process was fun most of the time, but in the final analysis, we realized some of our mistakes ended up costing us a lot of extra cash. Most of our mistakes were the result of not planning enough. For those of you contemplating doing a reno, here is our advice:

» Make changes during the plan-

ning stage, not the construction stage. Paul Catania of Verly Construction, the head of the company that managed our renovation, puts it plainly: "If it's well planned, and you work through the model at an early stage, you're set. Four months of doing that would have saved six months of work later on."

» Our architect Tony D'Andrea of Torplan Consultants Inc. agrees. "One of the biggest problems is that people don't give themselves enough time — give yourself at least six months for planning, and six to eight months for construction." He emphasizes the planning must be thorough — including reviewing every aspect of the plan, city permit requirements, parking issues, and many other details.

» In our case, one of the things we did wrong was hire an interior designer after drywall and ceilings were in place. "It's a lot easier when you make changes before the drywall



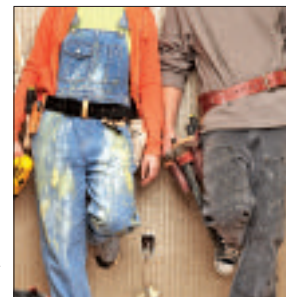
Sylvia Putz stands on her terrace; there is still lots of work to be done, but she hopes to be barbecuing by mid-summer.

goes up," says on-site contractor Joe Rego, owner of Rego Contracting.

» Make decisions about which fixtures and furniture you will buy as early as you can because the exact measurements of these items will dictate where switches, outlets and plumbing will be placed. Lina Pelaez, our construction co-ordinator from Verly Construction, says these types of decisions should be made before she calls in the trades.

» Be realistic. If you are combining old and new parts of a house during a renovation, budget for uniformity. Don't leave the old part as is, alongside a completely new renovation.

» Our assumptions that we would stay in the house for the duration of the renovation became ridiculous once renovation started in the old part. Joe sums it up succinctly: "With a large reno, move out. That way the contractor has to opportu-



Home renovations take time and money, but if done they can make your new home fit like a glove.

nity to work everywhere, inside and out."

» He also advises that the construction site be emptied for a large project. Ours wasn't. "Freedom of movement makes a big difference in construction — it takes triple the time to move stuff up and down the stairs, and back again, and things are missed" when furniture is piled up along a wall. (Sorry about that, Joe.)

» Learn from your mistakes — you never know when you'll get the reno bug again.

Reno mania consumes DIY-ers

Big box stores offer workshops

By RICK MCGINNIS
for Metro Halifax

The giddy rise of house prices has made bricks and mortar real estate the surest investment most of us will make in our lifetimes, with the result that maintaining and upgrading our investment has become an international obsession. It's a phenomenon that's made hunky contractor Mike Holmes a star, and has filled primetime with countless reality DIY shows from Britain, the U.S. and Canada, all of which have turned homeownership into a continuing domestic drama more compelling than the cooking of meals or the raising of kids — the activities that once seemed to occupy centre stage in our homes.

While watching these shows, the knowing homeowner can't help but keep a running tally of what they're seeing, marvelling that every new circuit breaker panel or expanse of glass bathroom tiling would cost at least a week's wages. To that end, we're encouraged to try and save money and do it our-



We're encouraged to try and save money by renovating our homes ourselves, our writer says.

selves, with the proviso that, if we screw it up, we'd might as well have blown that money at the racetrack.

The biggest beneficiaries of the home reno mania have been big box stores such as Home Depot, Lowe's, Rona, and Lee Valley. They've made fortunes accessorizing our nesting, and have turned the hardware store into vast warehouses.

They've also seen the need to teach us how to do all this stuff. The workshops, seminars and clinics the DIY behemoths offer range from bluntly prescriptive ("Fence Building" and "Deck and Fence Finishing" are just three of the no-nonsense clinics Rona offers) to self-affirming (Home Depot's optimistic "You Can Install A Toilet" and "You Can Use A Mitre Saw to Build Frames")

to the esoteric, and even academic (Lee Valley's seminars on "Design and Visualization" and "Women And Power Tools.")

Browsing the how-to offerings on the websites of the home reno stores, it becomes clear that, if only for liability's sake, none of them want to encourage us to aspire beyond a certain level of home reno competency. You might become a dab hand at drywalling or shingling one day, but there are some jobs best left to professionals. The pride and savings you might cherish at the end of a DIY endeavour is likely to wither away in the rosy glow of an electrical fire as it consumes the new addition you built to showcase your Star Wars memorabilia and add five grand to the resale value of your bungalow.

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Halifax and surrounding areas

Décor marries reno and existing space

Don't forget to spruce up 'old' sections of house

You can try to fool yourself about this one, but you won't fool anybody else.

We've seen the unfortunate end result of spending money on a lovely addition while leaving the old, cruddy part of the house as it always was.

Don't do it! We know that the marriage of old lived-in space and shiny new renovation doesn't work.

Be realistic in the planning stage of your renovation — you'll need to budget for bringing the whole house up to a reasonable level of

"newness." Many people who renovate are trying to save money, and actively avoid thinking about up-



ARRESTING DESIGN
JEFFREY FISHER &
TAMMY SCHNURR
busted@arrestingdesign.com

dating the "old" part. (It's called sticking your head in the sand.)

But believe us, you'll end up shelling out cash to fix it up sooner or later, and it

«Many people who renovate are trying to save money, so they actively avoid thinking about updating the 'old' part of their house. (It's called sticking your head in the sand.)»

will probably be sooner, because you can't stand to look at that glaring discrepancy any longer. It will bug you every single day

you live in that house — it would certainly drive us loco.

Luckily, there are some

decor basics in minimizing that divide, and in making the house with a new addition look more unified.

And the cost factor may be much lower than you think.

The first thing is to choose paint colour for the whole house — it must work together.

Depending on the size of your reno, you can decide on the same colour for both the new section and the older one, or you can choose a complimentary colour that looks good with all the other tones in the house.

Don't just paint the new section your favourite colour, and expect it to look good with the existing house. It won't.

Trim is also important — baseboards, trim around windows and trim in any other place should be consistent. If you have wood trim in the old part, you will find that matching that trim is sometimes dif-

ficult, and wood nowadays is expensive. If you are doing a large reno, you may find that it is actually cheaper to rip out the old trimwork (ouch!), and replace it with the same painted MDF trim throughout the house.

Another consideration is flooring. If your reno combines old and new space in the same room, you will need to put in new flooring for the whole space.

If the addition is a separate room separated from the old space, you can get away with a change of flooring (such as tile up against wood), as long as it is complimentary, both in color and in mood.

Remember that a well-used wood floor will look strange up against a high-gloss marble tile, for example. Keep the feel of the whole house similar.



Post-reno, you'll want to ensure décor in the existing portion of your house doesn't clash with the new space. Paint colours, for example, must work for the whole house; paint chips by Farrow & Ball.

Metal fixtures, whether they be kitchen faucets, bathroom faucets or door handles, should be similar in look.

Keep the metal the same if possible. That is, use chrome throughout, or antique gold, but don't use one metal and style in the new section and leave another metal and style in the old section.

Last but not least, do not decorate the new section in a style that is vastly dif-

ferent to that in the older part of the house.

Strive to bring the old and new together in terms of style, mood and colour.

After all, if the discrepancy between old and new is the most visible thing about your house, your beautiful new space won't shine the way it should.

Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher are hosts of Arresting Design on W Network. Tammy is an interior decorator. Jeffrey designs home furnishings and bedding through his company Jeffrey Fisher Home.

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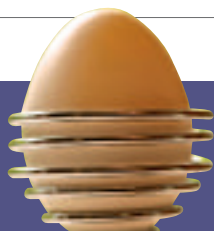
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food



A diet rich in the omega-3 fatty acid DHA (found in omega-3 enriched eggs, seafood and fish) has been found to significantly reduce the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Tortilla Española (Spanish potato omelette)



A timeless classic, the Spanish potato omelette can be cut into wedges for brunch or small squares for an appetizer and served with spicy salsa. This recipe is adapted from the Culinary Institute of America's Spain and the World Table.

INGREDIENTS:

8 Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and sliced 1/8-inch thick (about 2 lbs/900 g)
1-3/4 tsp salt, divided
1/2 cup + 2 tbsp olive oil, divided
1 cup chopped yellow onions
1/3 cup chopped red bell peppers
1/3 cup chopped green bell peppers
1-1/2 cups prosciutto, diced (125 g package)
10 large eggs

METHOD:

Toss potatoes with 1 teaspoon salt in large bowl. Heat 1/2 cup olive oil in large, non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add po-

tatoes. Cook, stirring occasionally, until potatoes soften but don't brown, about 5 minutes. Add onions, peppers and prosciutto. Cook 10 minutes until potatoes are tender and ingredients well blended. Transfer to colander placed over bowl and drain off liquid. Clean pan. In large bowl, beat eggs. Stir in potato mixture and add 3/4 teaspoon salt. Return pan to medium heat. Add 2 tablespoons olive oil; pour in egg mixture when oil is very hot. Tilt pan so eggs evenly cover bottom. Reduce heat to low. Cook, shaking pan once or twice, until omelette has set, about 10 minutes. Cover pan with large plate. Invert so omelette is cooked side up on plate. Slide back into pan and cook other side until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Cool to room temperature before slicing.

COURTESY OF TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The tale of the growing cake

MacMaster learns never to fiddle with recipes

Natalie MacMaster is a world famous fiddler and step dancer.

Q What is your fondest memory from your family kitchen?

A When I think of my parents' kitchen I immediately think of great food and music. I always enjoyed playing the fiddle while sitting in the rocking chair in the kitchen.

Q What kitchen aromas bring back fond memories?

A The smell of my mom's homemade cinnamon rolls. I also love the smell of fresh baked bread and deep fried chicken.

Q What is your favourite food to cook?

A I love to prepare pasta. I experiment with different sauces from recipes in cookbooks.

Q How did the first meal you prepared turn out?



Natalie MacMaster

A I never truly discovered the joy of cooking until I got married. One of the most memorable meals was the first time I had my in-laws over for dinner. I decided to bake a cake and inadver-

CELEB KITCHENS MARCY CORNBLOM entertainment@metronews.ca

tently put three cups of baking powder in the mixing bowl instead of three cups of flour. Needless to say, the results were interesting. I kept checking the oven and the cake just kept growing and growing. I took pictures of the finished product.

Marcy Cornblum is a freelance journalist. After 25 years of celebrity-filled adventures, she is using her experiences to enlighten others in understanding the media. Reach her at: mediasavvy@pathcom.com.

Natalie's Pasta Sauce

Ingredients:

2 cups heavy cream
1 cup of brandy
1/2 cup of rehydrated sun dried tomatoes
Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

Mix ingredients together. Boil until the sauce reduces by 50 per cent and turns a deep caramel colour.



metro TOP 5

Foods to please and impress your girlfriend:

1. Cheesecake, garnished with a chick-flick
2. A crisp white wine with raspberries in her glass
3. Breakfast in bed
4. Pan-seared salmon marinated in white wine and herb sauce (available at the deli in your grocery store)
5. Berry pie (fresh berries and a little blueberry pie filler in a graham cracker shell, top with real whipped cream).

— Douglas Dunlop/for Metro Halifax

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entertainment



Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, left, has revealed she is the new face of luxury brand Tod's.

SOURCE: PEOPLE.COM

Stone Angel full of passion

Director terrified at taking on Can-lit staple

By DEAN LISK
Metro Halifax

When she began adapting *The Stone Angel* from page for screen, Kari Skogland did so with a sense of terror.

"This is Margaret Laurence," said the director of the film version of the Can-lit staple.

"They don't teach you in school about all the passion in the book; they bypass that," she said. "I did not remember it for that, so when I re-read it, it was full of it. I

kept thinking, 'That's why it got banned.'"

The film — which opens at the Oxford Theatre tomorrow — tells the story of Hagar Shipley, a still feisty but ailing octogenarian who is at odds with her grown son. With death approaching, she sets out on a journey into her turbulent past.

« *I wanted it to be funny in parts and for us to enjoy who she is. But I didn't want us to feel sorry for her.* »

Kari Skogland on Hagar Shipley

Playing the older Hagar is Academy Award-winning actress Ellen Burstyn, while Toronto-based newcomer Christine Horne plays the younger version of the character. The film also stars Kevin Zegers, Cole Hauser, and Halifax's Oscar-nominated Ellen Page.

"I didn't want it to be sen-



Director Kari Skogland is shown on the set of *The Stone Angel*. She is in Halifax this weekend to promote the film.

timental, but I wanted it to be funny in parts and for us to enjoy who she is. But I didn't want us to feel sorry

for her," said Skogland, who first read the 1964 novel as a high school student.

"I discovered that 'Gee, old people have lives.' It never occurred to me before. At 14, you are pretty egocentric and anyone over 20 is ancient."

Later, when she was in her early 40s and looking for a new film project, Skogland picked up the novel again, re-reading it with older eyes.

"Suddenly, it was a whole new story, because it has a tremendous sense of depth



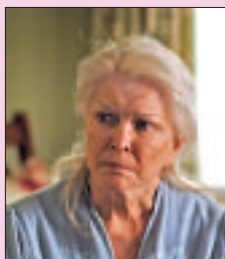
when and where

» *The Stone Angel* is playing at the Oxford Theatre tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 9:45 p.m.; Sunday at 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m., and 9:45 p.m.; and Monday through Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

director comes to town

» To help promote the opening on *The Stone Angel* in Halifax, director Kari Skogland will be in town this weekend to meet with fans and discuss her adaptation of Margaret Laurence's Can-lit classic. Following the 6:30 p.m. screenings tomorrow and Saturday, Skogland will take part in a Q&A

with the audience. The Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative and the First Weekend Club will present an artist talk with the Los Angeles-based director on Saturday at 11 a.m. at the CBC Radio building on South Park Street. The talk will be moderated by local filmmaker Shandi Mitchell. Admission is \$5 at the door.



Ellen Burstyn in *Stone Angel*.

as to who you are when you are that age. It spoke to my life in a couple of different ways — which is the brilliance of Margaret Laurence's writing."

Skogland said she was thrilled when Burstyn agreed to play the main role,

adding the actress had no vanity issues with playing a character older than herself.

"The first words out of her mouth were, 'You must make me look 90,'" Skogland said. "I knew I had the right person."

—dean.lisk@metronews.ca

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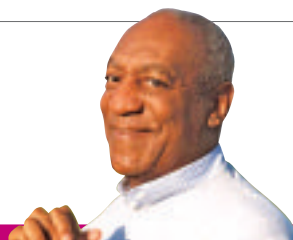
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Comedian Bill Cosby, right, known to a generation as Cliff Huxtable on *The Cosby Show*, is performing two sold-out shows at Casino Nova Scotia this Friday. For last minute ticket availability, call Ticket Atlantic at 451-1221.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jay Semko in concert.

Semko's release brooding, dark

Music led artist to his own recovery

By **DEAN LISK**
Metro Halifax

concert info

- » What: Jay Semko of the Northern Pikes
- » Where: Stayner's Wharf
- » When: Saturday, 9:30 p.m.
- » Tickets: \$6, at the door.

They were never meant to be an album, but the songs Jay Semko was writing turned into one.

"Basically, about a year and a half ago, I cleaned myself up," said Semko. "I had some substance abuse issues."

A member of the Canadian group The Northern Pikes, Semko recently released his third solo studio album, *International Superstar*, and is appearing in Halifax this weekend as part of a tour supporting the CD.

"It's been great," said Semko who is crossing Eastern Canada as

part of a three piece band — a set up he's musically enjoying. "It's tough, you are singing and playing and it all counts."

"Playing brand new songs is the funnest thing for me."

It didn't start off fun. The new album began to develop

«I was in the early recovery stages and they were all about the dark side, and what it was like to be there. A lot of them were really good songs, but what happened is that I started feeling better, feeling happier and more positive. I didn't know if it was correct for me to put out an album of this stuff right now.»

Jay Semko

while Semko was in a rehab clinic, mainly for alcohol abuse. He was allowed to take a guitar with him.

"I was in the early recovery stages and they were all about the dark side, and what it was like to be there," he said. "A lot of them were really good songs, but what happened is that I started

feeling better, feeling happier and more positive."

"I didn't know if it was correct for me to put out an album of this stuff right now."

With his new outlook on life, Semko took the advice of his friends and went to Nashville. He'd been there before, but never for an extended period of time.

"I didn't feel bummed out, and life was getting even better," Semko said. "I took a trip down, set up some writing sessions — just a couple — but it ended up being a domino effect."

He began collaborating with more writers, and soon *International Superstar* — with its playful melodies and tongue-in-cheek lyrics — began taking shape.

"I think the guys I wrote with got a kick out of working with me," said Semko. "I came back with a platoon of songs and I realized, 'Hey, this is an album.'"

»news In Brief

» **MUSIC** Netherlands-born trance DJ Tiësto will make his Atlantic Canada appearance in Halifax this summer. Tiësto, who is considered one of the best DJs in the world, will spin at The Cunard Centre on Wednesday, July 2, at 8 p.m. Ticket information has not been announced. Visit www.tiesto.com for more



Tiësto

information.

» **DOCUMENTARY** The Ricki Lake produced documentary *The Business of Being Born*, will receive a special screening this Sunday at noon at the Oxford Theatre. The film looks at the politics of birthing, including talks with doulas, midwives and doctors. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion on pregnancy and labour delivery. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the

door. The screening is free to youth under 18.

» **ART** To mark International Museum Day, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia will offer free admission today after 5 p.m. The gallery, which is currently exhibiting the popular show, *Arena: The Art of Hockey*, will also be hosting a presentation on the importance of museums. That presentation takes place at the AGNS' lecture theatre at 7 p.m.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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»news
In Brief

» **MOVIES** Jake Gyllenhaal will star in *Prince Of Persia: The Sands Of Time*, Disney's feature adaptation of Ubisoft's popular video game. Gyllenhaal will play Dastan, a young prince. Production is set to start in July in Morocco and England.

REUTERS

Boy band mogul sentenced

Boy band mogul Lou Pearlman, who launched the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, was sentenced yesterday in Orlando, Fla., to 25 years in prison for swindling investors and major U.S. banks out of more than \$300 mil-

lion US.

For years, Pearlman enticed banks and individuals to invest millions of dollars in two companies that existed only on paper and won the confidence of investors with strong but fake financial

statements created by a fictitious accounting firm, according to his plea agreement.

"The sympathy factor doesn't run high with the court," U.S. Judge G. Kendall Sharp said.

REUTERS

Cook serves up Idol win

Rocker takes crown over David Archuleta

By SANDY CAETANO
for Metro Halifax

David Cook, the rocker and former bartender from Blue Springs, Mo., was crowned this season's champion during last night's star-studded two-hour finale of American Idol.



Cook

Guru Pitka, also known as Emmy Award-winning Canadian actor, comedian, screenwriter and film producer Mike Myers.

Among last night's celebrity performers were Seal, Donna Summer, who sang her new single Stamp Your Feet, Canadian singer/songwriter Bryan Adams, ZZ Top, Graham

Nash, The Jonas Brothers and One Republic. George Michael even made an appearance coinciding with his first tour in 17 years starting in San Diego June 17.

And to add a few laughs was Renaldo Lapuz, who tried out for the competition earlier on in the season, to perform the song he wrote for judge Simon Cowell called We Are Brothers Forever.

Jordin Sparks, last season's American Idol winner, and Carrie Underwood also made appearances. "For the first time ever I don't really care who wins," said Cowell, commenting on how great both the final competitors are.

"I started this season ... as the word nerd, and I'm very much at a loss for words," said Cook after the results were read, before singing his new single Time Of My Life.

Promoting the film *The Love Guru*, coming out June 20, and offering advice to Cook and Archuleta was

Archuleta

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Tip of the Day: Proper words in proper places make the true definition of style. — Johnathan Swift

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CanWest CanSpell

National Spelling Bee
2008

Presented By



Emma Brownlie
Ottawa, ON

From our Capital to the Capitol...

Team Canada is off to D.C.!

Last month, our nation's finest spellers were in Ottawa for the CanWest CanSpell National Spelling Bee where local student, Emma Brownlie, won the cup and the title of Canada's best speller. Now Emma and the 21 other regional winning spellers, are off to compete in the grand finale of the Bee world, the 81st Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee, May 29 and 30.

Based on the extreme talent displayed at the Ottawa event, our Canadian contingent in Washington holds great promise. You can continue to follow their progress on-line at

www.canspell.com

On behalf of the presenting sponsor, Canada Post and CanSpell's other great partners, Canwest congratulates the spellers and their families and wishes our team all the best in the U.S. competition.



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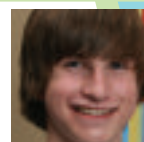
Watch to see how our Canadian spellers fare in this exciting culmination of events! The Scripps National Championship will be broadcast on ABC Friday, May 30. Check local listings.



Victoria Lan
Victoria, BC



Grace Tsai
Vancouver, BC



Curtis Bogetti
Kamloops, BC



Breanna Siemens
Prince George, BC



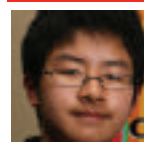
Julieann Huttemann
Okanagan Valley, BC



Tegan Odland
Lethbridge, AB



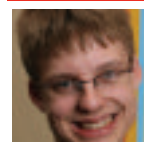
Austin Davis
Edmonton, AB



Cody Wang
Calgary, AB



Anqi Dong
Saskatoon, SK



Spencer Warriner
Regina, SK



Chris Sigurdson
Winnipeg, MB



Logan Turner
Thunder Bay, ON



Rachel Stadler
Windsor, ON



Veronica Penny
Hamilton, ON



Jessica Zung
Toronto, ON



Émilie Lafleur
Montreal, QC



Maggie Millican
Saint John, NB



Bethany Dickey
Halifax, NS



Jonathan Schut
Charlottetown, PE



Samara Blakeney
Sydney, NS



Mikayla Walsh
St. John's, NL

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PRINCE GEORGE CITIZEN The Guardian PENTICTON HERALD LETHBRIDGE HERALD CAPE BRETON POST The Daily News TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



Courtney Love, left, has taken to her MySpace blog to describe as "nonsense!" an online report that she has scrapped work on her second solo album. Instead, Love said the disc will be turned in to the label Custard by mid-July.

REUTERS



ABOVE: Justin Ingram (from left), Suman Jha and Ashley Jalliet pose at the Split Crow Pre Team Canada Game Party.



ABOVE: Shelby Maunders (from left), Rachel Wood and Jenny Vance at the Split Crow.



ABOVE: Alex Know (left) & Astrid Gutierrez at the Split Crow Pre-Team Canada Party.



ABOVE: Peter Hendrickson (from left), Vicki Rafuse, Victor Syperek, Rob Steele at the Queens Of The Stone Age gig.



ABOVE: Melanie Roy & Justin Delaney in from Moncton for Queens Of The Stone Age.



ABOVE: Molson Crew with a hockey legend. John Francis (from left), Jon Howse, Jenna Briggs, Peter Mahovlich, Mike Flemming and Billy Manley.



ABOVE: Amanda Demsey (from left), Chad Hiscock, Tara Riddell, Kat Grant and Erin MacKay cheer on Team Canada at the Split Crow.



ABOVE: Eric Bucher (from left), Hilary Beaumont, Gabe Milne at the Split Crow.

The replacement

What a week for your Man on the Scene to be out of commission! But don't feel too sorry for me. I

took a week off to bask in the warmth of the Cuban sun while learning to say "Un cerveza, por favor." This is not to say the Scene was left unattended in my absence. My good friend Anna Zee from Q-104 took in concerts, hockey, and beer, oh my! She took one for the team, staying up late and putting her liver on the line so that the Halifax social scene would be documented.

Although the World Men's Hockey Championship didn't finish up quite the way we would have liked, it left Halifax with some great memories and amazing economic revenues. Some reports suggested over \$22 million in spin-offs from hotels, bars and restaurants. One bar owner described the international hockey crowd as a bunch of "happy drunks." One of the week's highlights for many fans was running face to face into a hockey legend. Since the reunion luncheon of our 1976 Canada Cup winning Team, many of the players hung around our fair city for the duration of the tournament. Peter Mahovlich was able to take in a round of golf while in town. The man with the biggest hands I've ever shaken said he loved being in Halifax and catching up with his old teammates.

Before the final games moved on to Quebec City, there were some great pre-game parties to take in. Most notably was a Team Canada blast at The Split Crow. I also hear

rumblings that many of the Team Canada players would enjoy a post game libation at Bubba Ray's, the new sports bar on Spring Garden Road.



HALIFAX SCENE
JAMIE PATERSON

rumblings that many of the Team Canada players would enjoy a post game libation at Bubba Ray's, the new sports bar on Spring Garden Road.

On Tuesday, a five man electrical band from Palm Desert, Calif., rocked the roof off the Cunard Centre. Soon after tickets went on sale, the Queens Of The Stone Age concert was SRO. Fans were most impressed with the loud, sweaty show. The band is quoted as saying they "want sex to bleed into the music. At our shows, we want to see half boys and half girls in a utopian world, dancing and drinking." Mission accomplished ... I think.

One of the events my wife was disappointed to miss was the Atlantic Business Magazine's Top 50 CEOs banquet at the World Trade and Convention Centre. She's not a mogul in training, but she is a huge fan of "cute" luncheon host Seamus O'Regan from CTV's Canada AM. K.C. Irving was honoured as entrepreneur of the century by some of the greatest business minds this region has ever produced, including John Risley.

By the time I was making my way home, sunburned and hung over, Leonard Cohen was gearing up to play a five night stand at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Anna tells me Saturday night's show was nothing short of spectacular, with fans losing track after the third encore. It was a show not to be missed.



ABOVE: Chris Jangaard and Frank Innes at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium after Leonard Cohen's Saturday performance.



ABOVE: Jake Smith (from the Fed Pennies) & Janet Lunn at the Cunard Centre for Queens Of The Stone Age.



ABOVE: Pilots Julien Cuma and Seamus Byrne at the Split Crow Pre Team Canada Game Party.

I'd love to make a deal to cover your event for The Scene.
Just e-mail me at beatlejame@eastlink.ca.

Hannah Montana star Miley Cyrus, right, will release the first full-length album under her own name on July 22. Breakout comes on the heels of two albums tied to her title role as Hannah Montana.

REUTERS



controversy

Nas tones down album's name



Nas
RELEASE Rap-
per Nas has
ditched his
controversial
plan to call
his new
album N*gger.

"It's important to me that this album gets to the fans," Nas said in a statement, referring to likely problems promoting and distributing the album.

"The people will always know what the real title of this album is and what to call it."

The untitled project will be released July 1 via Def Jam.

Last year, Nas announced the original title in response to the stir caused by former CBS radio host Don Imus' comments toward the Rutgers women's basketball team. But he recently told MTV that he was being pressured to change the title.

His last album, 2006's *Hip-Hop Is Dead*, has sold 757,000 copies in the U.S., according to Nielsen SoundScan.

REUTERS

» news

In Brief

» **TV** Top reality producer Mark Burnett is venturing into TV animation. The *Survivor* Svengali has signed a deal with popular online animation website Liquid Generation to develop cartoon TV comedies — both original and based on existing content. Under the pact, Mark Burnett Prods. will produce Liquid Generation's first three TV projects, including originals *Witness Protection* and *Rapper in Chief*. Visitors at Liquid Generation, in business since 2000, can find out if they are more drunk than soul singer Amy Winehouse, or try to match breasts with their famous owners.

» **IDOL** American Idol contestant Josiah Leming has signed with Warner Bros. Records. His booting from *Idol* came as a surprise, as the show's producers had invested a serious amount of time detailing his back-story. Leming, 17, left home to pursue a musical career and lived in his car as he tried to support his out-of-work father and ill mother.

REUTERS

Fox comfortable at the top



IDIOT BOX
RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

HERE WE GO AGAIN: Every year around this time, after the tumbrels have rolled and the blade has come down on the last of the year's failed shows, the numbers are crunched and the cumulative ratings winner of the TV season just ended is announced. For the last few years — or basically as long as I've been writing this column — the big news is usually that Fox has done well, really well,

and has either threatened to unseat NBC or CBS for their customary post at the top of the ratings ladder.

It's a funny ritual — if you find ratings tallies and the imprecise language of demography funny. (I do, which is why you don't want to invite me to parties.) CBS' presumed lead for the last few years has been harder to defend, as Fox has taken the lead in more and more key ratings demographics, and has been unofficially crowned winner-in-every-way-that-matters for at least the last two years.

It's been an irritating little ritual to watch, year after year, and it sometimes seemed like the squeamishness about the obvious truth was motivated by the continued perception of Fox

« *Fox's ascension to the throne (of network ratings) feels like being crowned king of some plague-ravaged, war-ravaged kingdom.* »

as the upstart, the scrawny fox set among the regal network chickens. After reading the round-ups, with their careful parsing of the ratings, I always wanted to hit the caps key on my keyboard and writing something like FOX IS THE NUMBER ONE NETWORK ALREADY CAN'T WE JUST GET USED TO IT?

This year, there's no point even pretending anymore, as the Los Angeles Times business section ran a story yesterday that the Nielsen numbers have awarded Fox "the largest audience in

prime time" and that the network "should collect blue ribbons in every major demographic category." The big "but" to the story is that, given the dismal shambles that characterized the 2007-08 season, which began with a generally unimpressive slate of new shows before being derailed by the writers' strike, Fox's ascension to the throne feels like being crowned king of some plague-ravaged, war-ravaged kingdom.

This is the fourth year in a row that Fox has ruled the 18-49-year-old roost, helped enormously by *American Idol*, and despite a 10-per-cent decline in the show's ratings. With fewer scripted shows, and a shortened prime time (the network switches to local news at

10pm, while its competition has another hour to fill with original programming), Fox was best positioned to survive the year's harrowing conditions, and saw a five-per-cent rise in overall ratings since last year.

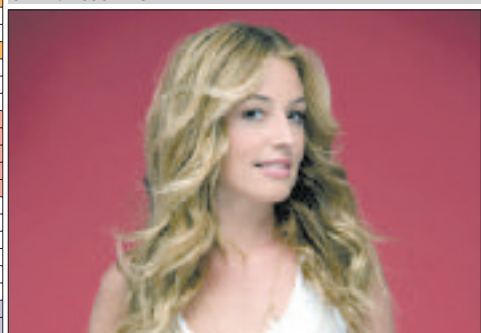
Further down the rankings, ABC and CBS are in a photo finish for second place, while NBC, the top network when its comedies ruled the night just a few years ago, is firmly in fourth place. This is known in the business as the Curse Of Joey, and the network is rumoured to be considering ritual exorcism of all of its programming executives at some point over the summer.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

critics' corner

So You Think You Can Dance

"American Idol" is over for another season, but if you like star-making competitions, its dance counterpart is back for another season. Like "Idol," it starts out presenting the highlights and lowlights from auditions around the country, so if you enjoy watching the cluelessly untalented make fools of themselves on national television, now's the time to watch. Cat Deeley returns as host. 9 PM on CJCH FOX



Ugly Betty

Henry, your timing needs work. In the season finale, Betty (America Ferrera) gets a romantic offer from Gio (Freddie Rodriguez) and a visit from Henry (Christopher Gorham), who has his own proposition for her. Wilhelmina (Vanessa Williams) tries to strike out supermodel Naomi Campbell (guest starring as herself) at a softball game between Mode and Elle. Real-life Elle editors Joe Zee and Robbie Myers also guest star in "Jump." 9 PM on ABC ASN

Last Comic Standing

So you think you can crack people up? Season six of the competitive reality series for comedians has something new: celebrity talent scouts. In the opener, Richard Belzer ("Law & Order: Special Victims Unit") and Steve Schirripa ("The Sopranos") monitor the auditions in New York, while Kathy Najimy ("King of the Hill") and Fred Willard ("Back to You") are at the tryouts in Tempe, Ariz. Bill Bellamy returns as host. 9:30 PM on CHIF; 10:30 PM on NBC

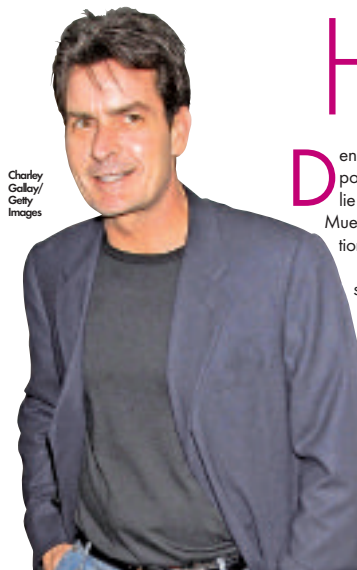
The Solid Gold Cadillac

The little guy can make a difference. Judy Holliday stars as Laura, the proud owner of a small number of shares in a large corporation. Attending her first stockholders meeting, she's not what the board is used to. Nevertheless, she attracts the attention of the soon-to-be-former CEO (Paul Douglas). To silence her uncomfortable questions, the board members give her a job — hoping she'll settle down and be quiet. No such luck. John Williams co-stars. 10 PM on V

	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
5/22/08	31	31	31	ABC News (N)	ABC News	Inside	Chronicle	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		
	7	7	7	ASN	Twice in a Lifetime	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		
	11	11	11	CBC	Coade	Stanley	Just-Gags	NHL Hockey: Eastern Conf. Final -- Flyers at Penguins			National	
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Providence (SC)		Squelettes	Belle-bale	Perdus (HDTV) (SC)	France	Téléjournal	
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	CBS News	Insider	Entertain	Big Bang	How I Met	CSI: Crime Scn	Without
	69	69	69	CTM	TVA 18h	Sûre-salé	Les Gags	Un vrai cinglé du cinéma (1956)	Héros "Double jeu"		TVA 22h	
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertain	ET	Deal or No Deal (N)		Last Comic Standing (N)		News (N)	
	9	9	9	CJCH	Grey's Anatomy "Freedom" (N)			So You Think You Can Dance (N)			News (N)	
	10	10	10	ELTV	(6) EastLink Television			Podium TV	EastLink Television			
	36	36	36	FOX	Simpsons	King-Hill	Two Men	Two Men	So You Think You Can Dance (N)		Fox First	
prime time	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Deal or No Deal (N)		Last Comic Standing	
	29	29	29	NW	BBC News	Business	News (N)	Newman	The Hour	National	National	
	4	4	4	PBS-B	News-Lehrer		Boston	Basic B	Voyages of Discovery	Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil		
	35	35	35	PBS-D	News-Lehrer		Business	BBC News	Old House	Hometime	Ask This	Michigan
	68	68	68	QSD	Journal	Flash	Albert	Catherine	Manigance (2000, Com. dramatique) (SC)		Journal	
	23	96	96	BNN	Stars	Business News	Market	Legal	Smil Caps	Squeeze Play	Market	
	18	18	18	CNN	The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight	CNN Election Center		Larry King Live	Cooper	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Post	LPGA Tour Golf: Corning Classic		PGA Tour Golf: Crowne Plaza Invitational				
	52	52	52	RSE	Sportsnet	Hockey	CHL Hockey MasterCard Memorial Cup	Tiebreaker -- Teams TBA.			Sportsnet	
	55	55	55	SCD	Hockey	Game On	Score Update	Score Update	Score Update	Score Update	Tonight	
sports	45	45	45	SPOR	NASCAR Race		NASCAR Racing: Sprint Cup Qualifying				Pinks Out	Low Life
	53	53	53	TSN	Off-Record	Sports	Hockey	Tyson's Hits	NBA Basketball: Eastern Conf. Final Game 2			
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	So Raven	Smart Guy	Suite Life	Naturally	Montana	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	6teen	Johnny T	George	Road Run	Scooby	Futurama	Chicken	Tripping
	26	26	26	TREE	Fifi	Backyard	Ni Hao	Night Grdn	Wiggles	Franklin	Little Bear	Spider
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake	Malcolm	Fries	Monster	Franklin	Futurama	Shadow	Falcon
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami		The First 48	The First 48	Crime 360	
	70	70	70	APTN	First Talk	News	Wapos	The Boot	Blk Carpet	College	The Little Richard Story	The Mix
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10	Live	The Boot	In Mind	In Village	Mary Reilly ** (1996, Drama)		
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Spirit					
family	60	97	97	CLT	Help TV		The West Wing		By Way of the Stars (1992, Adventure)		Traders	
	25	25	25	CMT	Ultimate Love Songs		R Wiese	Videos	Crystal	Crystal	Reba	Hope
	49	49	49	COM	Just-Gags	Comics!	Air Farce	22 Min	Laughs	Mercer	Simpsons	S. Park
	153	153	153	COURT	Truth, Duty, Valour		Trace Evidence		The Practice		Psychic	Cps uncut
	38	38	38	DISC	How-Made	How-Made	Daily Planet (N)		Animal Face-Off		MythBust	
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes	Holmes	Buy Me		Holmes on Homes (N)		Disaster	Big Flip
	46	46	46	HST	Disasters	Mastermind	NCIS		Total War		Total War	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Punk'd	Gone Wild	The O.C.		Muchmusic Countdown		Born to Be	Messed
	19	19	19	MMM	Profile	mmm10.com	Back In		Johnny Cash Live	Popagenda	Uncovered	
	201	201	201	MT	(7:15) Demons From Her Past (2007)				In Treatment		Standing Still (2005, Drama)	
cable variety	48	23	23	OLN	Don't Forget		R Wiese	Videos	Everest	Jet Set	Handyman	Dont
	51	51	51	PEACH	Friends	Seinfeld	MLB Baseball New York Mets at Atlanta Braves. (HDTV) (Live)					Fam. Guy
	206	206	206	PIX	The Deep		The Frisco Kid ** (1979, Western)		Blow ** (2001, Drama)			
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct (SC)		Domique Poirier		Grands reportages		Le Téléjournal (SC)	Le Club
	39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer	Billable	ReGenesis		Intelligence (HDTV)	G-Spot	Exes Ohs	The Shield
	40	40	40	SLICE	Three Takes		Women	Debt Part	Rich-Poor Bride		Last 10	Brides
	47	47	47	SPACE	The Sentinel		Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek Gen.	Stalker
	14	14	14	SLICE	CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn		TNA IMPACT! (N)	
	98	98	98	STAR	At Movies	Treatment	Look Like	Hollywood	TMZ	eTalk	American Idol Extra	Tonight
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Rides "Thump"		Overhaul'n (N)		American Chopper	Miami Ink
cable variety	56	34	34	TROP	Inside Box	Vanity	Inside Hollywood		ET	What	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld
	20	20	20	TVS	Champion	J'nal FR2	Toute une histoire		Complement d'enquête		Les Sauveteurs de	
	28	28	28	W	Emily of New Moon		Murder, She Wrote		May-Dec.	Keep Up	The Solid Gold Cadillac	
	22	22	22	W	Shopping	House	Will-Grace	Friends	Divine	House	Colour	House
	251	251	251	WGN	My Wife	Jim	Two Men	Fam. Guy	Smallville		Supernatural	News

celebritybuzz

He said She said



Charley Galloway/Getty Images

Denise Richards says an email purported to be from her to ex Charlie Sheen's now-fiancee Brooke Mueller asking for his sperm donation is "not legitimate."

"It's a doctored e-mail," she said on the Today show Wednesday when asked about the e-mail, which came to light during her divorce battle with Sheen. "I would never send an e-mail to [Mueller], and, at the time of that e-mail, I was with [Richie Sambora]. If I wanted anybody's sperm, I'd have asked for Richie's," she said. Sheen said in a

statement to Today that Richards' claims are "absurd."

"The mere fact the she continues to publicly discuss and harass both Brooke and me three years after our separation which, for the record is longer than the actual length of the marriage, is beyond desperate and speaks volumes," he said. Sheen added: "I will no longer sit back and be egregiously painted as a liar. If any proof can be established that these are not in fact her words and statements verbatim, I openly invite her and would even encourage Ms. Richards to sue me in a court of law." On Tuesday, Richards also blamed the media for her breakup with Sambora, saying they suggested she came between the musician and his ex-wife, Heather Locklear. "They [Sambora and Locklear] were getting

divorced; he and I were friends and it happened," Richards told Larry King. "And she had moved on. She was already involved with someone else at the time. It [the press coverage] affected, I think, the circumstances. It was very difficult to sustain a relationship. We were so slammed in the press ... but I did not split up their marriage."

Metro News Services



Mark Mainz/Getty Images

Whitney cleared

A judge in Hawaii has dropped misdemeanor drug charges against Whitney Houston. According to

imdb.com, the judge has dropped charges, which related to an incident in 2000 when she was suspected of possessing marijuana while going through a Hawaiian airport with ex-hubby Bobby Brown. Houston's record label has said she's been free from illegal substances for three years now.

Metro News Services



Frederick M. Brown/Getty Images



Jana Birchum/Getty Images

Is Billy Bob buggin'?

Billy Bob Thornton is at the centre of a bizarre new police report filed by his former sister-in-law, according to Tmz.com. Elysabeth Cherniak claims the actor has bugged her home and regularly sends her insulting emails. According to a LAPD report she filed, Thornton has been harassing Cherniak — the sister of the actor's fourth wife Pietra — for almost two years. A spokesman for the actor says, "Billy doesn't use e-mail and never has. Anyone who knows him would know that."

Metro News Services

Alba weds in secret

Jessica Alba married Cash Warren in a secret ceremony on Monday. The 27-year-old actress's representative Brad Casafarelli has confirmed to People.com a wedding took place, but no other details were made available. Alba is currently eight months pregnant with their first child. The Fantastic Four actress recently said of her relationship with Warren, who she met on the set of the 2005 superhero movie, "It wasn't lust, or 'this is my soul mate.' It was, 'Oh, I'm going to know you for the rest of my life.' It was easy." Metro News Services



Frederick M. Brown/Getty Images

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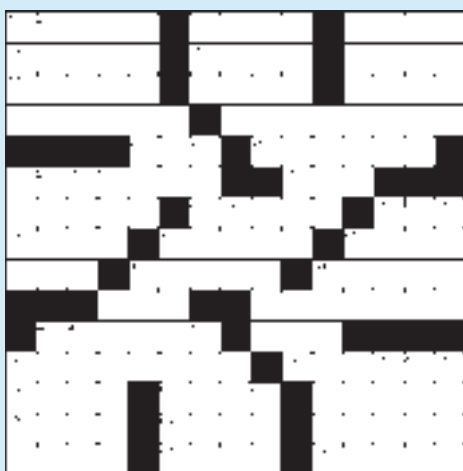
Looking out for the Earth is everyone's business. And when a business in your neighbourhood goes green, it's something to be proud of.

Visit us at metronews.ca/goinggreen and tell us about a business near you that's done something good for the environment lately.

We'll be featuring some of your nominees in our Going Green section, running monthly in Metro Halifax.



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down»

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Couch | 35 An alloy |
| 2 Oil exporter | 36 Desert of Asia |
| 3 Gold-coated | 37 Element 26 |
| 4 Snack | 38 Headlines |
| 5 Scooped at | 40 Bout finisher |
| 6 Atlas page | 41 Kind of vaccine |
| 7 Hoople's word | 43 Feudal underling |
| 8 Exposed ones | 44 Added up to |
| 9 Loathed | 45 Sealskin canoes |
| 10 Like angel food cake | 47 Dawn goddess |
| 11 Multitude | 48 Non-earthling |
| 12 Exudes moisture | 49 Filled the hold |
| 13 Galumph | 50 Red Sea peninsula |
| 21 Mess up | 52 Not tanned |
| 23 Snaky fish | 53 Races the engine |
| 25 Parachute material | 55 More than like |
| 27 Animal skin | 56 Big — elephant |
| 28 Buffalo's lake | 57 Docs prescribe them |
| 29 Stir to action | 58 Aha! (2 wds.) |
| 30 Writing implement | 61 Cartoon shriek |
| 34 Sturdy tree | |

across»

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Endorses a check | 27 Hot | 48 Makes nervous |
| 6 Repair | 31 Conniving | 51 Not worth a — |
| 10 Boutique | 32 Went wrong | 52 Observe the rules (2 wds.) |
| 14 Easy-to-find constellation | 33 Ear parts | 54 Deli buy |
| 15 Malaria symptom | 36 Tonic go-with | 59 Slave girl of opera |
| 16 Billiards | 39 Wildebeest chaser | 60 Type of socks |
| 17 Trumped-up | 40 Miser's cache | 62 Misplaces |
| 18 Football gear | 41 Fairway shout | 63 Chive relative |
| 19 Ricelike pasta | 42 Turner or Koppel | 64 Icicle site |
| 20 School song | 43 Folger rival | 65 Hem and haw |
| 22 Relied | 44 Jostle | 66 Tackles' neighbors |
| 24 Kept in shape | 45 Pocket jangler | 67 Gamble |
| 26 Long bouts | 46 Evening-gown glit-ter | 68 Overpopulated |

previous answer



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STICKLERS

Match the word in the left column with its respective meaning in the right column.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1) someone | a. a section of seats |
| 2) pause | b. in a theater |
| 3) picture | c. to really exaggerate |
| 4) pretentious | d. to analyze grammar |
| 5) perambulate | e. aging |
| | f. to openly declare |

Yesterday's Answer:

1. b. in a theater
 2. c. to really exaggerate
 3. d. to analyze grammar
 4. e. aging
 5. f. to openly declare

		3			1		
	7		9		2		8
5	4					7	3
		2	3		1	6	
4							9
		5	4		7	8	
1	3					4	8
		5		1	8		6
		8				9	

instructions»

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time»

Under 13 minutes
 13-17 minutes
 17-21
 21-25
 More than 25

Genius
 Scholar
 Smart
 Pretty good
 Keep practising

previous answer

1	4	5	9	8	3	6	2	7
3	9	8	2	6	7	5	4	1
2	6	7	4	1	5	9	3	8
9	3	4	8	5	2	1	7	6
7	1	6	3	9	4	8	5	2
5	8	2	6	7	1	3	9	4
8	7	3	1	2	9	4	6	5
6	5	9	7	4	8	2	1	3
4	2	1	5	3	6	7	8	9

HOROSCOPE



ARIES | March 21-April 20

A stunning defeat will sadden a loser. A woman will tell a lie for good reasons. You need to recuperate from a risky deed.



TAURUS | April 21-May 21

Be calm with a brash admirer. Dealing with roadwork becomes vexing. Be discreet with a money-making scheme.



GEMINI | May 22-June 21

Making progress will ease your stress. An unexpected sight has you in a tizzy. Help someone out of a financial bind.



CANCER | June 22-July 22

Watch out for wonderful opportunities. Poor conduct will be laughed off. Friends will force you to reassess your life.



LEO | July 23-Aug. 23

Change your mind about making demands. Avoid a confrontation with a bore. A sensational find will cause some healing.



VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22

An authority figure wants to help out. A new path will alter your love life. Step in to rescue difficult people.



LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23

Anxiety about a miserable situation will subside. An important person's power will be decreased. Physical discomfort can be relieved.



SCORPIO | Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Reconciliation between workers takes place. You'll be able to endure tremendous emotions. An aversion is clear to everyone.



SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23-Dec. 21

A profound meaning will be found. Someone will fail to agree with you. Simply ignore an unsophisticated comment.



CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20

A wimpy male has an exciting tale. Understanding will free you from a promise. A lover gets a lesson in emotions.



AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18

An idea will bring out the best in a male. Freedom is declared by a former coward. Avoid impulsively casting blame.



PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Don't demand agreement from strangers. Being helpful will lead to news. A marriage is followed by a strange reaction. AVATAR VENUS

This Day IN HISTORY

May 22, 1992: After 30 years, 66-year-old Johnny Carson hosts The Tonight Show for the last time.

May 22, 1990: The Windows 3.0 operating system is released by Microsoft.

May 22, 1960: An earthquake measuring 9.5 on the moment magnitude scale, now known as the Great Chilean Earthquake, hits southern Chile. It is the most powerful earthquake ever recorded.

Metro News Services

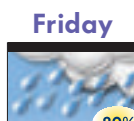
Halifax weather



Partly cloudy.
18°



Showers.
6°



Rain.
12° / 5°



Showers.
13° / 4°



Mainly sunny.
17° / 8°

Temperature
 Normals
 High: 15.4°
 Low: 5.8°

Records
 High: 32°/1992
 Low: 0.6°/1950
 Sunrise: 5:38 a.m.
 Sunset: 8:43 p.m.
 Moonset: 6:53 a.m.
 Moonrise: 11:36 p.m.

TWN incorporates MSC data



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2007 Ford Focus

40 to Choose From



These vehicles are fully loaded, low kms and get 43 miles per gallon!

A GREAT DEAL AT \$12,990

NOW FROM
\$11,246* or
\$90** Biweekly

\$0 DOWN Taxes & Fees Included

2007 Fusion SE

8 to Choose From



Great looks, full load including alloy wheels and rear spoiler. Gets 37 miles per gallon!

A GREAT DEAL AT \$14,990

NOW FROM
\$13,586* or
\$108** Biweekly

\$0 DOWN Taxes & Fees Included

2007 Ford Taurus

10 to Choose From



Fully loaded, low K's and 34 miles per gallon.

A GREAT DEAL AT \$12,990

NOW FROM
\$11,246* or
\$90** Biweekly

\$0 DOWN Taxes & Fees Included

2007 Escape XLT

4 to Choose From



Fully equipped including air, locks, windows, doors. Low K's.

A GREAT DEAL AT \$19,990

NOW FROM
\$18,656* or
\$147** Biweekly

\$0 DOWN Taxes & Fees Included



2002 Mazda Protege

One owner with only 85,000 km!
Was \$8990

\$6,553* OR **\$90****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2005 Ford Mustang GT

Full load including leather, 5 speed & Shaker 1000W Stereo.
Was \$28,990

\$25,607* OR **\$220****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2006 Pontiac Montana SV6

Fully loaded, one owner with just 41,000 km.
Was \$15,990

\$14,644* OR **\$140****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2006 Ford Freestar SEL

Fully loaded with power sliding doors & power lift gate. Was \$17,990

\$14,644* OR **\$140****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2005 Saturn Ion Level 3

Fully loaded with only 62,000 km!
Was \$10,900

\$8,712* OR **\$85****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2000 Taurus SEL

Fully loaded with only 56,000!
Was \$8,900

\$6,942* OR **\$95****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2004 Ford Explorer SportTrac

XLT Full loaded with sunroof.
Was \$19,990

\$17,534* OR **\$170****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2001 Mercury Cougar

Fully loaded with only one owner!
Was \$9,990

\$7,720* OR **\$105****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2006 Ford Mustang GT

Full load including leather, 5 speed & Shaker 500W Stereo.
Was \$28,990

\$25,607* OR **\$220****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2003 Ford F150 4x4

6 Cylinder automatic with air.
Was \$15,990

\$14,259* OR **\$160****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2004 Ford Focus ZTS

Fully loaded with leather and sunroof, 67,000 km
Was \$10,990

\$9,358* OR **\$105****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.



2006 Chrysler PT Cruiser

Fully Loaded with only 70,000 km!
Was \$10,990

\$8,712* OR **\$75****

* Plus taxes and fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C.

* Plus taxes & fees finance price. ** Bi-weekly O.A.C. Not all vehicles are exactly as shown.

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